

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /104 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2453

C O N F I D D N T I A L MANILA 3946

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, RP

SUBJECT: INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NEW SOCIETY

REF: MANILA 3751

1. SPEAKING AT ONE OF INCESSANT SEMINARS ON NEW CONSTITUTION IN CEBU, APRIL 1, JUSTICE FERNANDEZ SAID THE PEOPLE HAD ALREADY DECIDED THAT THE TIME WAS NOT YET RIPE FOR THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISERS MIGHT PROPOSE INSTEAD THE FORMATION OF A "LIMITED ADVISORY COUNCIL" SELECTED FROM THOSE (CONGRESSMEN AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES) WHO MIGHT SIT IN AN ASSEMBLY. "IF THE COUNCIL SUCCEEDS, THE PEOPLE MAY THEN DECIDE IT IS TIME TO CALL THE INTERIM ASSEMBLY".

2. THE JUSTICE NOTED PRIVATELY TO EMBASSY SOURCE THAT IF REFERENDUM CALLED IT MIGHT INCLUDE QUESTION ABOUT INTERIM ASSEMBLY DESIGNED TO POSTPONE ITS CALLING INDEFINITELY. HE THOUGHT REFERENDUM TIMING MORE LIKELY TO BE JULY, AFTER SCHOOLS HAVE RECONVENED.

3. COMMENT: JUSTICE FERNANDEZ IS WELL CONNECTED AND MAY REFLECT CURRENT THINKING ON INSTITUTIONALIZING GOVERNMENT. BUT WE DOUBT THAT GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED BEYOND TRIAL BAL-
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LOON STAGE ON ADVISORY COUNCIL VS. INTERIM ASSEMBLY;

COUNCIL WOULD OF COURSE BE ONE MORE CONSTITUTIONAL
ABBERRATION. REFERENDUM TIMING MAKES SENSE BUT CONTENTS
PRESUMABLY STILL IN DISCUSSION STAGE.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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